

EXTRA TO THE Hongkong Daily Press.

SUNDAY, 7TH APRIL, 1918.

THE WAR.

**ALLIED LINE REMAINS INTACT.
GERMANY'S FRUITLESS SACRIFICE OF MEN
DETAILS OF APPALLING LOSSES.
DISCUSSION REGARDING THE TIME FOR
THE COUNTER-BLOW.**

Franco-Belgian front.

LATEST CABLES.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

BRITISH FRONT

**ENEMY THRUSTING AT JUNCTION
OF ALLIED ARMIES.**

LONDON, April 6th.

Reuter's Correspondent at British Headquarters, telegraphing this afternoon states:—The enemy is again thrusting at what he believes to be the junction of the French and British armies in the hope of separating them. His assault against the British yesterday was apparently aimed at converging a movement upon the little town of Corbie. It was delivered in dense waves, which our machine-gun and rifle fire heavily punished. He succeeded in straightening out the little salient in our line in the neighbourhood of Hamel Wood and village. Our counter-attack was not sufficiently strong to restore the position.

The weather is wet and misty, hence it is impossible for our airmen to co-operate.

Fragments of projectiles with which the enemy is shelling our back areas bear British marks, showing that both guns and ammunition come from the Russian front.

LIMITED ENEMY SUCCESS.

LONDON, April 6th.
10.35 p.m.

Reuter's Correspondent at British Headquarters telegraphing this evening states that fuller details reveal that the enemy thrust between the Somme and the Aisne was a formidable effort aimed at getting astride the Paris-Amiens railway and developing a thrust at Amiens. Thanks to the stubbornness of the resistance the enemy success is limited to the creation of a salient 7,000 yards wide with an extreme depth of 2,000 yards.

THE GERMAN FORCE.

There is reason to believe that the Germans threw in fourteen Divisions of fresh troops, including some crack corps and three guards divisions.

The Fifth German Division, which bore a large share in the early days of the offensive and were withdrawn to rest and rest, were again fighting. It is estimated that practically 100 German Divisions have been used in the present battles.

BRITISH DESTROYING ENEMY COMMUNICATIONS.

Although the enemy yesterday concentrated all available artillery on the bombardment it was relatively not heavy. Consequently they relied chiefly on preponderating numbers. Prisoners complain that the state of the roads due to our ceaseless shelling, is causing delays in getting up heavy batteries and adequate munitions. Yesterday, rifles and machine-guns, played a principal part in the defense.

DETAILS OF ENEMY LOSSES.

The Germans came on in dense waves and suffered heavily. Enemy wastage will prove the dominant factor in deciding the present struggle, hence the following details are noteworthy. A prisoner from the 129th Infantry Regiment stated that the average company strength in three battalions of his regiment was forty of all ranks when he was captured.

A prisoner from the 64th Infantry Reserve Regiment said that only eighty men of his Battalion reached Bapaume on March 25th. When reinforcements arrived they were composed of men all over thirty-five years, but when the battalion was reorganised it remained so weak that it consisted of a quarter strength, only two companies totalling 120 of all ranks. The Second Battalion of the 37th Infantry Reserve Regiment was 1,000 strong at the beginning of the offensive. When it reached Bapaume it was 80 strong and during our attack on March 23rd between 50 and 60 of these were killed.

THE ALLIED COUNTER OFFENSIVE.

WHEN SHOULD IT TAKE PLACE?

LONDON, April 6th.

The question of the Allied counterblow to the German offensive is being discussed in Paris. Some of the French experts are urging an immediate counter offensive. They point out that the German armies are now deployed on a bend over more marked than in 1914, and that the middle part of the strength of the enemy offensive is accumulated in a pocket of territory which is surrounded by Allied forces.

The military expert of the *Matin* writes "The long sought for hour of manoeuvre should not be far off." On the other hand the correspondent at French Headquarters says competent authorities consider that the Germans can still use another hundred divisions offensively before their resources are exhausted and the Allies are able to undertake the offensive.

EARLIER CABLES.

HEAVY FIGHTING.

LONDON, April 6th.
1.20 p.m.

Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig reports:—There was heavy fighting in the afternoon and late evening between the Luce River and the Somme.

The enemy, employing strong forces, delivered repeated assaults, and these were beaten off with loss to the enemy, but we were slightly pressed back to eastwards of Villers and Bretonneux, where our positions were maintained.

The enemy's artillery to the north of the Somme was active during the night in the neighbourhood of Bucquoy and in the Scarpe Valley.

We engaged hostile concentrations in the neighbourhood of Albert.

BRITISH DIVISION'S LOSSES.

LONDON, April 6th.

Mr. Hamilton Fyfe, the war correspondent, mentions that a British Division lost eight Lieut. Colonels in the recent battle.

LATEST CABLES.

FRENCH FRONT. ENEMY FAILS TO ATTAIN OBJECTIVE.

PARIS, April 6th.

A communiqué states:—The Germans continued their attack at night-time with undiminished violence and by hurling into battle fresh forces.

We have identified fifteen divisions on our battlefront of which seven are fresh. Despite marked numerical superiority in his effectives, which are being used up regardless of cost, the enemy did not attain his objective, namely, the railway from Amiens to Clermont. This is borne out by orders found on prisoners.

EARLIER CABLES.

LINE ENTIRELY MAINTAINED.

PARIS, April 6th.

Our regiments by their resistance, step by step, and by energetic counter-attacks, maintained their line entirely, inflicting cruel losses on the enemy; whilst to the north we have withdrawn to the neighbourhood of Castel. We repulsed the enemy from the Bois de la Arrièrecourt to the west of Mailly and Meneval.

South-east of Griveaux a brilliant counter-attack gave us St. Aignan Farm, which we retained against all assaults.

LATEST CABLES.

FRENCH EXTEND POSITIONS.

Between Montdidier and Noyon the artillery struggle assumed great intensity. We attacked and conquered the major part of Bois-de-Pinette, 600 metres north of Ouyllers-Sorel.

All the efforts to dislodge us were in vain. Further east a local operation enabled the extension of our positions north of Mont Renaud, which the enemy, notwithstanding his mendacious statements, never succeeded in recovering.

EARLIER CABLES.

THE GERMAN ATTACKS.

LONDON, April 6th.
12.40 p.m.

It is not clear whether the new battle amounts to a resumption of a really big offensive or a series of hammer blows, similar to those which the Germans delivered many weeks after the failure of the first phase of the attack on Verdun. The reciprocal raiding activity at Rheims may indicate more important events in that region.

ENEMY HELD ON BOTH FRONTS.

LONDON, April 6th.
12.10 p.m.

A French semi-official message states that the enemy is held on both French and British sectors before Amiens and is unable to develop a plan for outflanking the city. "French reserves are now making their presence felt."

AMERICAN TROOPS IN BATTLE.

LONDON, April 6th.
2.05 p.m.

Reuter's Correspondent with the American Army in France says that the American force is now occupying a sector on the Meuse heights, to the south of Verdun. The enemy raided here yesterday after a heavy bombardment.

Italian front

LATEST CABLES.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

ARTILLERY FIGHTING ALONG THE PIAVE

LONDON, April 6th.

An Italian official report states:—The enemy is persistent in his harassing fire on the Asiago Plateau.

We dispersed parties on the western slopes of Ortler, and we engaged troops on the move toward the rear between Susegana and Conegliano.

There is remarkably intense artillery firing along the Piave.

Africa.

EARLIER CABLES.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

SURVEY OF OPERATIONS.

LONDON, April 6th.

General Van Derventer's first lengthy despatch covering the operations in German East Africa for the six months ended December 31st, shows that the campaign was of the most exacting nature, owing to the bad effects of the climate on all but the indigenous Africans and other campaigning difficulties, such as the character of the country, which was largely to the advantage of the enemy.

The despatch deals at some length with the operations against one small mobile column commanded by Colonel Naumann, which was particularly troublesome until captured and dispersed, owing to tactics reminiscent of the pursuit of General De Wet.

General Van Derventer believes that Colonel Naumann's raiding exploits were only possible in a country like German East Africa, where the bush is so thick that two considerable forces are able to pass within a mile, unaware of each other's existence.

LATEST CABLES.

After tracing the measures by which the enemy forces were tracked down and broken-up, General Van Derventer states he is of opinion that the remnants which entered Portuguese East Africa may necessitate an equally arduous campaign, though on a very much smaller scale, before they can be brought to book, owing to the size of the country and the difficulties of communication.

Our casualties during the six months months were 6,000. The enemy lost 1,618 whites, 5,462 Askaris, 14 guns, 77 machine guns and 1,000 rifles.

General Van Derventer praises all the military arms, especially the South African, Indian, West African and East African troops. He also thanks the Navy under Rear-Admiral Charlton, the Indian, South African, East African and Ugandan Governments.

Aerial Activities.

EARLIER CABLES.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

BRITISH USE OF AEROPLANES.

LONDON, April 6th.
6.20 a.m.

Mr. Perry Robinson, describing the British use of aeroplanes in the first phase of the battle, says that there have been 300 machines simultaneously in the air over one sector alone, the pilots comparing the experience to going down the Strand. The machine-gunning of troops and transports, and the bombing of roads and villages by low-flying machines, has been unprecedented. The Germans have been compelled to use by-roads as the main roads have been blocked by the wreckage of bombed transport. Squadrons of machines have constantly gone out for four and even six times in a single night, returning for more ammunition. German aeroplanes which have tried to interfere have been constantly shot down. CAPTAIN TROLLOPE'S SPLENDID ACHIEVEMENTS.

As an item in the day's work, Captain Trollope, now reported missing, established a record by shooting down six machines in a single day. He first attacked four German fighting machines and smashed one. The others dispersed. Captain Trollope, proceeding, dived and attacked 10 machines far below him and downed them. He then climbed and re-joined his formation which was engaging an enemy squadron. Captain Trollope had exhausted his ammunition and returned and replenished. He met and

attacked three machines, bringing down one. Captain Trollope pursued another group and brought down one in flames. He was returning home when he sighted an enemy scout attacking a British machine and felled him.

Mr. Perry Robinson pays a tribute to the work of the Dominion airmen, American pilots and mechanics in contributing to make the Flying Corps not an auxiliary arm but a major striking force.

General.

LATEST CABLES.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

NORWEGIAN SHIPPING LOSSES.

TOTAL UP TO END OF LAST MONTH.

LONDON, April 6th.

Seven hundred and forty-five Norwegian vessels aggregating 1,102,000 tons gross have been lost through war causes up to March 31st and 946 sailors have been drowned.

Fifty-three Norwegian vessels of which the crews total more than 700 are missing. It is believed that two-thirds of these are war losses.

MESSAGE FROM THE N.Y. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

THE KING'S REPLY.

LONDON, April 6th.

The Press Bureau announces that the King, replying to the message from the New York Chamber of Commerce, expressing profound admiration for the heroism and steadfast determination of the armies, navies and peoples of the British Empire in the cause of justice and freedom, warmly congratulates the Chamber on the celebration of its 160th anniversary and rejoices to think that America's sons are now joining the world struggle for the triumph of justice and freedom. His Majesty adds "The vast resources in life, treasure and industry of your great nation, pledged in the cause of civilization, must assuredly lead us to prevail. Your words of admiration and encouragement for the fighting forces and peoples of the Empire will find a worthy response in our hearts. I sincerely thank you."

EARLIER CABLES.

GERMAN NAVAL EXPERT'S CONCLUSIONS.

AMSTERDAM, April 6th.

Captain Periss, writing to the *Berlin Tageblatt*, expresses the opinion that even if the British Army is smashed Germany cannot land troops in England until the British Fleet is beaten.

"He doubts the ability of submarinism to starve Great Britain. Hence he comes to the conclusion that Great Britain and Germany should make peace, as neither can destroy the other. Such a peace, he adds, should now be easier in view of Prince Lichnowsky's and Count von Jagow's disclosures to the effect that Great Britain was not responsible for the war."

THE FIFTH ARMY'S RETIREMENT.

LONDON, April 6th.

The *Daily News* says the Government has decided to hold an enquiry into the retirement of the Fifth Army at St. Quentin.

FOOD RATIONS.

LONDON, April 6th.

Butchers' meat is to be reduced by one-third after May 6th, and simultaneously extra bacon rations will be issued to manual workers. The object is to utilise the larger supplies of bacon arriving from America and to diminish the consumption of home-grown cattle during the grazing season.

RUSSIAN AFFAIRS.

GERMANY ABLE TO LEND MONEY.

LONDON, April 6th.

The *Daily Mail* Correspondent at Petrograd says it is reported that an association of German banks has offered the Government a loan of a thousand million roubles, guaranteed by the revenues of the Northern and Siberian Railways.

GERMAN VIOLATION OF BREST-LITOVSK TREATY.

PETROGRAD, April 6th.

When the German transports arrived at Hanghoi the Commander of the Baltic Fleet sent a deputation to the German Commander saying he was uncertain as to the object of the arrival of the squadron and to protest against the violation of the Brest-Litovsk Treaty, which guaranteed the security of the Russian Fleet.

The Commanders of several Russian warships, including four submarines wintering at Hanghoi, blew up their vessels to prevent their capture.

The approach of the German transports at Hanghoi was facilitated by the Russian ice-breaker, *Volkymits*, which left Helsingfors on the previous day and proceeded to Reval, where it surrendered to the Germans.

The arrival of the Germans at Hanghoi endangers the Russian Fleet at Helsingfors, which is unable to reach Cronstadt owing to the lack of an ice-breaker.

There are two battleships, a division of destroyers, five submarines and numerous transports at Helsingfors.

THE BELATED CZERNIN SPEECH.

VERSION OF ALLEGED RECENT CONVERSATIONS.

AMSTERDAM, April 3rd.

Count Czernin, addressing the Vienna City Council, said he earnestly desired peace. Austria wished to avoid a further military offensive, and some time before the present offensive began Mr. Clemenceau enquired whether, and on what basis, Count Czernin was prepared to negotiate. Count Czernin, in agreement with Berlin, immediately replied that they were prepared to negotiate, and that the only obstacle was Alsace-Lorraine. Austria would insist on the *status quo*. Paris replied that this was an impossible basis. There was, therefore, no choice but to fight. Come what may, Austria would not sacrifice Germany's interests nor would Germany desert Austria.

He concluded by saying that the aspirations of France and Italy to portions of our territory are Utopias which will be terribly avenged.

THE MAN-POWER PROBLEM.

LONDON, April 6th.

The newspapers anticipate that the military age will be raised to fifty.

The question of Irish Conscription will be deferred until the Convention report has been published.

THE SILVER MARKET.

LONDON, April 6th.

The silver market is reported to be without feature.

Printed and Published by HARRY ARNOLD, CARPENTERS, for THE HONGKONG DAILY PRESS, Ltd., at 104, Des Voeux Road Central, Victoria, Hongkong. London Office: 121, Fleet Street, E.C.